

Message Text

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ORIGIN INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11

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DRAFTED BY INR: RMERRICK/ NEA: MSTERNER

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IO/ UNP: JWKIMBALL

NEA/ ALATHERTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069507

E. O. 11651: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, UN, LE, EG (FOR SCALI FROM CLINE)

SUBJECT: ANTICIPATED EGYPTIAN STRATEGY IN SECURITY COUNCIL

DEBATE ON BEIRUT RAID

1. WE HAVE NO FIRM INDICATION AS YET OF EGYPT' S STRATEGY.
STATEMENT BY GHORBAL IN CAIRO THAT, ACCORDING TO THE
PROVISIONS OF UN CHARTER " NO STATE MAY COMMIT THE CRIME
OF MURDER DELIBERATELY AND BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE AS A UN
MEMBER" MAY BE ONLY A TACTICAL POSITION. (THERE ARE
PREVIOUS EXAMPLES OF EGYPTIONS' HINTING AT EXPULSION OF
ISRAEL, WITHOUT TAKING ACTION TO FOLLOW UP.) IN PAST
EGYPTIANS HAVE GENERALLY SEEN THEIR INTEREST BEST SERVED
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BY GRADUALIST STRATEGY OF SEEKING INCREMENTAL CONDEMNATIONS OF ISRAEL WITH MAXIMUM SUPPORT WITHIN UN FORUMS.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, GHORBAL' S STATEMENT PLUS EMOTIONAL AND ANTI- US LINE THAT CAIRO PRESS AND RADIO HAVE BEEN TAKING COULD MEAN CAIRO SEES THIS AS OPPORTUNITY TO PULL OUT ALL STOPS TO SCORE PROPAGANDA VICTORY AGAINST US. EGYPTIANS COULD HAVE MISLED LEBANESE ABOUT POSITION EGYPT WOULD ADOPT, OR LEBANESE THEMSELVES MIGHT HAVE BEEN LESS THAN TOTALLY FRANK WITH US. EGYPTIAN OBJECTIVE COULD BE TO OBTAIN STRONGEST POSSIBLE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL WITH EXPECTATIONS OF US VETO. IN ADDITION TO CONDEMNING ISRAEL, OBJECTIVES OF THIS STRATEGY WOULD BE TO EXPOSE AND ISOLATE US, GAIN MAXIMUM PUBLICITY CONCERNING US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, AND LEND CREDIBILITY TO SADAT' S CURRENT PROPAGANDA LINE THAT EGYPT HAS ENTERED PHASE OF " ALL- OUT CONFRONTATION" WITH ISRAEL AND US AS ITS MAIN SUPPORTER. ADOPTION OF TOUGH EGYPTIAN LINE IN SC WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN CAIRO SINCE MARCH 14 N. Y. TIMES STORY RE FURTHER US AIRCRAFT SUPPLIES FOR ISRAEL.

3. WHILE EGYPT MAY WELL TAKE A VERY HARD LINE AGAINST US, ON BALANCE WE WOULD PROCEED ON ASSUMPTION THAT IT WILL NOT HOLD OUT FOR RESOLUTION CALLING FOR EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM UN. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD HOLD OFF COMING TO ANY FIRM CONCLUSIONS ABOUT EGYPTIAN STRATEGY UNTIL WE SEE WHAT LINE ZAYYAT TAKES IN SC AND IN PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS. ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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